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ENG 2009C-002: Literature and Human Values: Labor, Class, Power

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ENG 2009C Syllabus/**SPRING 2000**/McCormick
Literature and Human Values: Labor, Class, Power



Instructor: Dr. McCormick
Office: CH 339D
Phone: 581-6121
E-Mail: cffgm@eiu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9-11 & 12-2 (and by
appointment; I am also frequently
in my office on T & R)

Required Texts:
Alger, Ragged Dick
Angelou, I Know Why . . .
Capek, R.U.R. & Insect Play
Defoe, Moll Flanders
Sinclair, The Jungle
Twain, Connecticut Yankee . . .

Supplementary Purchases: (1) Spiral notebook (for your JOURNAL; use for this class only);
(2) Theme folder (for your Term Paper).

THREE PRELIMINARY REMARKS:

1. I welcome your questions about any of our assignments for this course. Ask and I'll be happy to clarify.
2. I will do my best to make this a class you will enjoy attending. In return I ask that you attend regularly and perform your reading and writing assignments by the assigned dates.
3. Bring your textbook and journal to every class -- and don't be late.

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED

You will be expected to attend class regularly, to perform reading and writing assignments diligently, and to contribute to our class discussions of the assigned works. Your grade for the course will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

- 20% Journal (at least 200 words before every class) + 2 500-word journal-based essays. (I will evaluate your journal and a 500-word journal-based essay at MID-SEMESTER and again at the end of the semester. For details, see pp. 1-4 of your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout.)
- 20% Pop quizzes and participation. Arrive punctually. I will frequently begin a class meeting by giving a five-minute quiz over the day's reading assignment. The participation component of this 20% segment of your grade will entail participating in class and group discussions of our assigned texts and reading from your journal when called upon.
- 20% Term paper (1500-2000 words; 6 to 8 typed pages). For details, see pp. 5-6 of your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout.
- 20% Mid-Term Exam.
- 20% Final Exam.

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED (continued from preceding page)

I will assign the following values to the grades you receive on the five projects described above:

A+ = 4.2	B+ = 3.2	C+ = 2.2	D+ = 1.2	F = 0.0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	Missing = -1.0
A- = 3.8	B- = 2.8	C- = 1.8	D- = 0.8	

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

A = 4.2 to 3.8	B = 3.7 to 2.8	C = 2.7 to 1.8
D = 1.7 to 0.8		

But note the following incentive to attend class faithfully:

If at the end of the semester your average falls 1 to 2 decimal points below the cutoff for the next higher grade category, I will assign you the higher grade if you have had **no more than 3 unexcused absences**. For example, if your average were 2.6 or 2.7 (i.e., 1 or 2 points below the cutoff for a B), you would receive a final grade of B if you had had no more than 3 unexcused absences. If you had 4 or more unexcused absences, your average of 2.6 or 2.7 would earn a final grade of C.

OPTIONAL REVISION:

Any of you who wish to do so may elect to revise your TERM PAPER in hopes of raising the grade for the paper by a maximum of one letter. One exception: a paper whose grade I have penalized for plagiarism (see below) may not be revised and resubmitted.

Revisions must be substantial. The revised paper will need to include some new paragraphs with new content. Merely correcting the errors I mark in the original graded version of the paper will not result in an improved grade. The optional revision will be due no later than the final class meeting of the semester.

PLAGIARISM

Note the English Department's statement concerning plagiarism:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including assignment of a grade of F for the course.

LATE AND MISSED WORK

Writing assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the dates indicated by an asterisk (*) on your syllabus. Late papers will be penalized one-half letter grade for each class day they are late. TWO EXAMPLES:

- (1) If your paper were due on **MONDAY** and you submitted it on **TUESDAY**, your grade would be penalized by a half letter: e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a C-;
- (2) if your paper were due on **MONDAY** and you submitted it on **WEDNESDAY**, the grade would be lowered by two half letters; e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a D+.

Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -1. They may not be made up.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

SYLLABUS

NOTE: Asterisks in the left-hand margins of the following pages indicate important due dates--for papers, exams, and journals.

- JAN 10 Introduction to the course: explanation of course requirements & grading procedure. Discuss **SAMPLE ENG 2009C Journal Entries** handout.
- 12 Mark Twain, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (A 19th-century American is conked on the head and wakes up in medieval England), chapters I-X, pp. 7-49.
Additional Tasks:
- a. Carefully review pp. 1-3 of this syllabus.
 - b. Read your **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS** handout, paying particular attention to "**WHAT TO WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL.**"
 - c. Remember to buy a spiral notebook and be sure to prepare a **JOURNAL ENTRY** (minimum of 200 words) before class.
 - d. Be prepared for a pop quiz over pp. 7-49 of Connecticut Yankee.
- 14 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XI-XVIII), pp. 50-98. (And remember to bring your journal and your new journal entry to class -- every time.)
- 17 Martin Luther King's birthday. No class.
- 19 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XIX-XXIV, pp. 98-140.
- 21 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XXV-XXXI, pp. 141-188.
- 24 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XXII-XXXVIII, pp. 189-231.
- 26 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XXXIX-to end, pp. 231-274.
- 28 Daniel Defoe, Moll Flanders (An 18th-century English woman seeks to escape the poverty into which she is born), pp. 3-38.
- 31 Moll Flanders, pp. 39-85.
- FEB 2 Moll Flanders, pp. 86-136.
- 4 Moll Flanders, pp. 137-184.
- 7 Moll Flanders, pp. 185-229.
- 9 Moll Flanders, pp. 230-268. In class we will do some preliminary

brainstorming to generate potential ideas for a term paper.

- FEB 11 Abraham Lincoln's birthday. No class.
- 14 Group discussion of Moll Flanders and Connecticut Yankee. Bring both novels to class today.
Remind me today to distribute a MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE.
- 16 In-class writing project. Bring to class the texts of both Moll Flanders and Connecticut Yankee. Be prepared to compare a single aspect of these two novels.
- * 18 Mid-Term Exam, Part I: Take-Home Essays -- due at the beginning of today's class. In class you will discuss your essays informally in small groups.
- * 21 Mid-Term Exam, Part II: Objective Portion. (Note: Your journal and your first 500-word journal-based paper will be due at our FEB 23 meeting.)
- * 23 Submit JOURNAL & 500-WORD JOURNAL-BASED PAPER for evaluation at beginning of class. (See page 4 of your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout for a description of your first 500-word journal based-paper. I will not penalize you for exceeding the suggested 500-word limit. The procedure I will use for evaluating your Journal and 500-word journal-based paper is explained on p. 1 of your Writing Assignments handout.
I will do my best to return your Mid-Term Exams at today's session.
- 25 No class today. You need a rest and I need time to read your journals.
- 28 Film to be shown in class: Ruby in Paradise (young woman seeks work and happiness in Florida; this film was an award winner at Robert Redford's 1993 Sundance Film festival). In class I will call for three volunteers to serve as panelists in a MARCH 3 discussion of Ruby in Paradise.
- MAR 1 Finish viewing Ruby in Paradise.
- 3 Panel discussion, followed by class discussion, of Ruby in Paradise.
- 6 Horatio Alger, Ragged Dick (American boy, later 19th century), chapters 1-9
- 8 Ragged Dick, chapters 10-18.
Carefully study my explanation of your Term Paper requirements on pp. 5-7 of your Writing Assignments handout. For a portion of your journal entry today, do some brainstorming to try to come up with several potential topics for your term paper (due April 5).

MAR 10 Ragged Dick, chapters 19-26.

13, 15, 17. Spring Recess. (But get a start on Caged Bird (see assignment below).

20 Maya Angelou, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, chapters 1-11 (wonderful autobiography by one of our most celebrated contemporary African-American writers).

22 Caged Bird, chapters 12-21. (Today remind me to remind you that we need to begin doing some serious thinking about topics for your 6-8 page TERM PAPER. It will be due on APRIL 5.)

24 Caged Bird, chapters 22-29.

27 Caged Bird, chapters 30-36. In class we will do some brainstorming pertinent to your forthcoming TERM PAPER. In what ways does Maya's situation resemble or differ from the situations of Ragged Dick and Moll Flanders? What similar social and moral issues are treated in Caged Bird, Ragged Dick, Connecticut Yankee, and Moll Flanders. Make a list of similarities in the themes of these four works.

29 Devote no fewer than three hours to developing potential material for your TERM PAPER. For an explanation of your Term Paper requirements, review pp. 5-7 of your Writing Assignments handout.

Write a journal entry of at least 400 words related to your idea(s) for the paper.

* Bring to class two copies of a 100-word description of your plans for the paper -- one copy to be turned in; another for you to discuss with your classmates.

* 31 Write a rough draft of your TERM PAPER and bring it to class for peer review. (In class today, each of you will read and write peer reviews of the rough drafts of two of your classmates. Your classmates will include your signed reviews in their theme folders when they submit the completed paper. The completed paper is due on APRIL 5.)

APR 3 No class. Work on your term paper -- due at our next meeting.

** 5 Submit two (2) copies of your TERM PAPER (in LEFT pocket of theme folder; in RIGHT pocket include rough drafts and preliminary scribbles, and [on top] the signed peer reviews written by two of your classmates). Today three of you (chosen by lottery) will offer ten-minute presentations of your paper. Be prepared.

- APR 7 Four 10-minute presentations of term papers (be ready to present; you may be selected in today's lottery).

NOTE: Next week we will read a portion of a "Chicago" novel -- The Jungle. In class today I will distribute a small-group membership roster and explain the procedure we will follow (beginning on Monday) in our small-group discussions of The Jungle. I suggest that you get started on your reading right away. (See description of next assignment.)

- 10 Upton Sinclair, The Jungle (A farm family emigrates from Lithuania to Chicago in search of work and happiness; early 20th century -- before the advent of labor unions), pp. 20-72 (ch. 2-6; note that we do not read chapter 1).
Small-group discussion: Be there. You will be responsible for 7-10 minutes of your group's discussion of The Jungle. Your journal entries will supply you with ideas you can contribute to the discussion.
- 12 The Jungle, pp. 72-118 (ch. 7-11).
Small-group discussion: Be there. Contribute (7-10 minutes).
- 14 The Jungle, pp. 119-152 (ch. 12-15).
Small-group discussion: Be there. Contribute.
 During the final 15 minutes of today's class you will write (and submit to me) an assessment of what you have learned from and contributed to your group's discussions of The Jungle. I will ask that you include commentary on the contributions of one or more members of your group which you have found particularly valuable.
- 17 Josef and Karel Capek, R.U.R. (written by two Czech brothers in 1929. Subject: robots; they take over the world). In class today I will call for 3 volunteers to serve as panelists in an APRIL 21 presentation on the continuing pertinence of technological/ethical issues raised in R.U.R. Read Acts I and II, pp. 1-61.
- 19 R.U.R., Acts III and IV, pp. 62-104. Remind me today to give you a preview of our Final Exam.
- 21 Panel discussion, followed by class discussion, of R.U.R. (Does this play remind you of any movies you have seen? Which ones?)
- 24 Film to be shown in class: Rosie the Riveter (documentary on American women's experiences working in war-production factories during World-War II). No homework this week unless you have elected to revise your Term Paper. The optional revision is due no later than April 28.

APR 26 Continue viewing Rosie the Riveter; class discussion.

28 Last class day. We will review for the final exam.
** **REMINDER:** Today is the deadline for submitting a revision (entirely optional) of your Term Paper. The revision is to be submitted in your **THEME FOLDER**, along with the original graded version. Use a highlighter or pencil to call my attention to new material (sentences and paragraphs which were not present in the original version).
SUGGESTION: Begin working on your 2nd 500-word journal-based paper -- which you will need to bring to our final exam along with your journal. (See p. 4 of your **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS** handout for a reminder of the procedure for preparing the paper.)

Date of Final Exam: WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2:45-4:45
**(Don't forget to bring your journal and your 2nd 500-word journal-based paper to the exam.)

(Good luck on all of your finals!)